

**CLAIMS:**

1           1.       A monolithic compensator for a liquid crystal display comprising:  
 2           (a) a first deposited thin-film positively birefringent O-plate compensator layer  
 3           having a first surface;  
 4           (b) a second thin-film compensator layer deposited onto said first surface of said  
 5           first compensator layer, wherein [each of said first and] said second deposited  
 6           thin-film compensator layer is [layers are] selected from the group consisting  
 7           of (i) a positively birefringent O-plate compensator layer, (ii) a positively  
 8           birefringent A-plate compensator layer, (iii) a negatively birefringent A-plate  
 9           compensator layer, and (iv) a negatively birefringent C-plate compensator  
 10          layer.

1           2.       The monolithic compensator of claim 1, wherein one or more thin-film  
 2           layers of material are deposited between said first deposited thin-film compensator layer  
 3           and said second deposited thin-film compensator layer.

1           3.       The monolithic compensator of claim 2, wherein at least one of said one or  
 2           more thin-film layers is a deposited thin-film compensator layer.

1           4.       A liquid crystal display comprising:  
 2           (a) a polarizer layer;  
 3           (b) an analyzer layer;  
 4           (c) a liquid crystal cell having a first transparent substrate and a second  
 5           transparent substrate forming respective walls of said liquid crystal cell, said  
 6           liquid crystal cell disposed between said polarizer layer and said analyzer  
 7           layer; and

8 (d) a monolithic compensator in accordance with a specified one of claims 1, 2, or  
9 3 disposed between said polarizer layer and said analyzer layer.

1 5. A compensator element for a liquid crystal display comprising:  
2 (a) an optically transparent substrate; and  
3 (b) a monolithic compensator in accordance with a specified one of claims 1, 2,  
4 and 3, operatively coupled to a optically transparent substrate.

1 6. The compensator element of claim 5, wherein said optically transparent  
2 substrate is an optical polarizer.

1 7. The compensator element of claim 5, wherein said optically transparent  
2 substrate is one surface of a liquid crystal cell.